

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 21 March 2007. Responsive to that Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15 have now been amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 12-13, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Rohne, et al. reference. The Examiner also rejected the Claims under the same statutory section as being anticipated by the Oross, et al. reference. In setting forth these rejections, the Examiner gave little if any patentable weight to certain recitations for being worded in product-by-process form.

As each of the newly-amended independent Claims 1 and 15 now more clearly recites, Applicant's interface device includes among its combination of features a plurality of key caps each having "a transparent portion defining a light transmissive barrier between inner and outer sides of one said key cap." In the case of Claim 1, the interface device further includes among its combination of features each key cap having "a fluorescent portion covered by a layer of fluorescent ink thereon," with "one of said fluorescent and transparent portions forming a symbol on each of said key caps." In the case of Claim 15, the key caps are "respectively disposed in ... hole regions of ... [an] upper cover," with "a

fluorescent plate having therein a fluorescent material” surrounding the hole regions to visually accentuate the key caps. Newly-amended independent Claim 8 likewise recites for its interface device “an upper cover” for a keyboard on which “a transparent portion defin[es] a light transmissive barrier between inner and outer sides” of that upper cover. The upper cover is also provided with “a fluorescent portion covered by a layer of fluorescent ink thereon,” such that “one of said fluorescent and transparent portions form[s] a symbol,” as Claim 8 further clarifies.

The full combinations of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicant’s pending Claims is nowhere disclosed by the cited Rohne, et al. and Oross, et al. references. Note, for instance, that while Rohne, et al. does provide for a fluorescent label for a computer keyboard key, the reference prescribes a multilayered sticker-type element which is custom cut to cover the entire top surface of the given key. At least one of the label’s multiple layers forms a luminescent ink layer 16, and at least one forms a separate adhesive layer 12 as prescribed. Each of these layers spans the entire upper surface of the given key, making no provision for any window-like “transparent portion defining a light transmissive barrier between inner and outer sides of one said key cap,” as each of the newly-amended independent Claims 1 and 15 now more clearly recites. Nor does Rohne, et al. anywhere even mention an upper cover for a keyboard, much

less a partially “fluorescent” “upper cover” provided with such “transparent portion,” as Claim 8 now more clearly recites.

The newly-cited Oross, et al. reference similarly fails to disclose any key cap or keyboard upper cover having “a transparent portion defining a light transmissive barrier between inner and outer sides” thereof for visual enhancement when used in combination with surrounding “fluorescent portion[s],” as recited by each of the newly-amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Indeed, Oross, et al. prescribes simply the use of a UV reactive material on its keys, for activation by extraneously provided UV light sources 152. It is this cooperative activation of the UV light source and the UV reactive material on each key which provides the visual enhancement in Oross, et al., not the contrast between a “fluorescent” portion and “a transparent portion defining a light transmissive barrier between inner and outer sides” of a key cap or upper cover of a keyboard, as the newly-amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 recite. To the contrary, Oross, et al. even states for the top surfaces of the keys it discloses use of a colored material, “such as a black plastic” (column 4; lines 51-52).

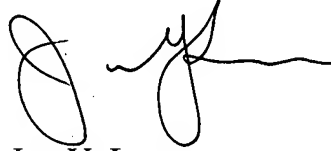
It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the cited Rohne, et al. and the Oross, et al. references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant’s pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

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It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges associated with this filing, the Honorable Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account #18-2011 for such charges.

Respectfully submitted,
For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jun Y. Lee', written over a horizontal line.

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